

Zack's athletic prowess and leadership aptitude drove him to enlist in the U.S. Navy in 2004. He first served as an Aviation Ordnanceman onboard the USS *Nimitz* before realizing his dream of becoming a Navy SEAL. During his 16 years in the Navy, he became a highly decorated combat veteran with seven deployments and numerous awards for valor including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, and three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals with Valor, each for distinct heroic actions during combat operations worldwide.

Zack was a devoted son, partner, friend, and teammate. He was known for his unparalleled work ethic that was only matched by his endlessly positive attitude, sense of humor, and charm. Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join Zack's family, friends, and teammates in celebrating a life well lived, recognizing the sacrifices he made for all of us, and extending our deepest gratitude for his service to our country.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS
ESSENTIAL ACT OF 2021

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, The Second Amendment Is Essential Act will classify, by law, the firearms industry as a "critical infrastructure sector" and those it employs as "essential workers" by amending the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the USA Patriot Act of 2001. The changes define any business or employees who manufacture or deal firearms and ammunition as critical infrastructure for the purposes of federal guidance to States during an emergency.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 directed the Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish guidelines for States regarding who should constitute "critical infrastructure workers" in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, these individuals have often been referred to as "essential workers."

Similarly, the USA Patriot Act defined "critical infrastructure" as "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters."

Americans' rights, including the right to keep and bear arms, are no less essential during a state of emergency. In fact, the right to defend one's self and one's home is most essential during a state of emergency. Furthermore, states of emergency merit heightened vigilance to protect against unnecessary and unconstitutional government outreach.

In 2020, gun sales increased by 64 percent as Americans sought to exercise their Second Amendment rights so they could have peace of mind during a turbulent time. Firearms manufacturers and dealers should not be forced by government to close in a time when demand for their products is through the roof. This legislation will ensure that the Second Amend-

ment can be freely enjoyed by Americans when they need it most: in times of crisis.

THANKING CHARLENE BEST FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my constituent, Charlene Best, for nineteen years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives. She retired on June 3 from her role as Manager with the Asset Management Department of Logistics and Support.

Charlene has had a very distinguished career prior to her House employment. In high school and into college, she worked with the Department of the Navy. After her graduation in 1995, she went to work for the National Science Foundation as an Administrative Assistant, followed by a stint with the Census Bureau from 1999 to 2000. Later, she worked as an Executive Assistant for Booz, Allen, Hamilton.

Charlene had long wished to be a House employee and began interviewing in 2002, earning a position as a Special Assistant for the Office of the CAO in the Office Systems Management. She quickly moved through the ranks and became a Supervisor and, eventually, Manager with First Call from 2007 through 2015, before moving up to her current position. Charlene also served as a Move Coordinator during the many Congressional Transitions and brought her special talents and expertise to Members of Congress and their staffs.

When asked about the highlights of her career, Charlene has said how much she appreciated the mentorship of her boss, Tom Coyne, Chief Logistics Officer, and she credits him with helping her to grow professionally. She has also cited one of her first supervisors, Carol Nichols, as someone who saw potential in her and invested time and energy to help her advance in her career.

One notable contribution that Charlene made to the House was her participation in the lying-in-state of Rosa Parks, for which she earned Congressional recognition. She remembers this event with sober reflection. In addition, one of the most cherished memories from her House career was being present in the Capitol for the first inauguration of President Barack Obama. While relaying the story to my staff, she recalled being in the hallway of the Capitol on the path leading out to the inaugural stage, when President-Elect Obama walked within ten feet of where she was standing and gave her a friendly wink prior to stepping out onto the stage. She loves to tell this story to demonstrate the great honors she has felt working for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Charlene, like so many House employees, had been teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic, and she said that she felt lucky to have spent some 'home time' with her daughter Jordyn, a graduating senior. It was a welcome opportunity to spend quality time with Jordyn before she heads off to college in the fall. In retirement, Charlene is looking forward to enjoying more time spent with her family and pursuing other opportunities.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in extending our congratulations to Charlene Best for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to this House. I wish her many wonderful and fulfilling years in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
HERSHEL DEAN HOOD

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hershel Dean Hood who passed away at North Mississippi Medical Center on May 16 of this year. I join countless others in mourning his loss.

For three decades, Hershel was a conductor for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He served in the United States National Guard as a Master Sergeant and was the maintenance contractor at Tschudi Courts in Amory for 15 years. He was also an auxiliary deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department for 17 years. Hershel was known and loved in his community.

At Cason Baptist Church, Hershel wore many hats. He was the choir director, a musician, deacon, and children's worker. He was passionate about music and a member of the Nite-Liters band and the Singing Prophets Quartet. His record "Little Band of Gold" topped charts in England and he was inducted into the Rock-A-Billy Hall of Fame. He frequently drummed for Elvis Presley.

Left to cherish his memory are wife of 56 years, Ann Oliver Hood; sons, Gregory Dean Hood and Andy Hood; sister, Judy Holman; brothers, Billy Ray Hood and Lamar Hood and multiple nieces and nephews.

I join countless Mississippians in mourning the loss of Mr. Hershel Dean Hood. He was a gifted musician, loving husband and father, and a leader in his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCCUPY THE
CORNER DETROIT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 8th Annual Occupy the Corner/Detroit event, an initiative hosted by Detroit City Councilwoman Mary Sheffield in Detroit for its continuous efforts and dedication to provide hope and resources to our communities within Detroit.

For eight years, Occupy the Corner Detroit has been an essential event and program to combat neighborhood crime and violence while promoting critical resources such as expungement program information, utility assistance, housing assistance and so much more. This annual event uplifts our residents and neighbors in 13th District strong and provides hope for economic opportunity for those that have been left behind or underserved.

Occupy the Corner Detroit is more than just an event. It truly signifies the importance of

community and the resilience of Detroiters. Occupy the Corner Detroit provides a space of residents to convene and feel empowered to address day to day challenges. I am truly proud to work in partnership with Council President Pro Tem Sheffield in serving the 13th Congressional District.

Please join me in recognizing the hard work of Occupy the Corner Detroit on behalf of the communities of Detroit, Wayne County, and Michigan's 13th Congressional District and congratulate this initiative on eight years of service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID JOHN SHAWVER

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David John Shawver as he completes his tenure as Chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors. Chairman Shawver served in this capacity from December 2018 through June 2021. Throughout his tenure, Chairman Shawver has been committed to providing an affordable service to the community and understands the importance of keeping with OC San's mission of protecting the public health and the environment. Under his leadership, Chairman Shawver and the Board of Directors understood the financial hardship COVID-19 created for many of our ratepayers, ensuring the service cost for consumers was less than \$1 per day. Chairman Shawver's commitment to affordable water and water reuse has allowed OC San to move in the direction of recycling 100 percent of its reclaimable flow through the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), a joint project between OC San and the Orange County Water District. Upon completion of this project in 2023, GWRS will produce 130 million gallons of high-quality water every day, which will be enough water for 1 million residents in north and central Orange County. We thank Chairman Shawver for his years of service and dedication to OC San and the community he serves.

WILLIAM "BUD" MONAGHAN

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Cherry Hill, New Jersey Police Chief William "Bud" Monaghan, Cherry Hill Police Department.

After 26 years of service, Chief of Police William "Bud" Monaghan is set to retire in October 2021. Chief Monaghan joined the police department in 1995 as a patrolman. He has led the police force since January 2014. During his years as Chief of Police, he worked to strengthen the community by creating close ties with the public. Chief Monaghan built relationships with cultural, religious, youth and civic groups to connect the Police Department with its area.

Chief Monaghan regularly attended community meetings to participate in the discussions

about Cherry Hill's neighborhoods. He is devoted to keeping the area protected and safe. He also focuses on police transparency and up to date technology to continue to provide aid and comfort to the residents.

The Cherry Hill Police Department is committed to protecting both life and property. Cherry Hill, New Jersey is home to over seventy-thousand residents and the police department averages one-hundred twenty thousand calls for service per year. Chief Monaghan and his police department provide the highest level of police service while also enhancing the quality of life in the area.

Chief Monaghan's dedication to the police department and its 136 full-time sworn officers has resulted in a safe and thankful community that fosters growth and acceptance. Chief Monaghan describes his time and service at the Cherry Hill police department as "the honor of a lifetime." His successor will be chosen in the coming months, but it is evident that Chief Monaghan's impact on the Cherry Hill Police Department will be appreciated for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Police Chief William Monaghan in his retirement and recognizing his more than two and a half decades of service to the Township of Cherry Hill and their Police Department.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
LIEUTENANT LANE FOWLER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Corinth Police Department Lieutenant Lane Fowler, Sr.

In 2004, Lt. Fowler joined the Corinth Police Department. His desire to help people was the reason he chose to launch a career in law enforcement. Over the course of his 17-year career, Lt. Fowler fulfilled his duties with a sense of pride.

One of his most rewarding achievements was serving as the leader of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program. During his eight years working with fifth grade students, Lt. Fowler taught them about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and making good choices with their lives. Lt. Fowler said it was his goal to teach children that law enforcement officers are not to be feared. It was his goal to build good relationships with members of the community of all ages.

On Friday, June 11, Lt. Fowler's retirement was celebrated during a ceremony hosted by his fellow police officers with the Corinth Police Department. It was my honor to thank him for his dedication to the citizens of Corinth and for his pledge to protect their safety. Lt. Fowler's service will always be remembered.

Lt. Fowler is married to Tonia Fowler. They have five children: Kacie Blakney; Johnson Fowler, Jr.; Sidney Robertson; Mikki Holmes, and Justin Holmes. The Fowlers have six grandchildren: Lainey Blakney; Corbin Blakney; Caben Robbins; Eli Robbins; Hadley Holmes, and Anna Grace Holmes.

I am grateful for Lt. Fowler's lifetime of service to North Mississippi and thank him for his commitment to the Corinth community.

COMMEMORATING LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this June, we celebrate Pride Month in solidarity with our fellow Americans, and world citizens, who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer, also known as the LGBTQ community. We celebrate the courage it takes for LGBTQ people to openly and freely be their true selves, and we celebrate to show them compassion and understanding, even if they have not yet made the decision to affirm their identity publicly.

The struggle to attain full equality for LGBTQ Americans is far from over, but we can take solace in recent triumphs: the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," Obergefell v. Hodges, which legalized same-sex marriage in the United States, Bostock v. Clayton County, GA, which prohibited employment discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation, and President Biden's lifting of the ban on Transgender people from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

But also, during this Pride Month, we must not forget the struggles that lie ahead for the LGBTQ community—most notably, attaining the right to live freely, with equal protection of the laws and without fear of violence or persecution. For many LGBTQ people, especially those of color, this dream is not yet within reach. I implore those Americans that face adversity for their sex or sexual orientation not to despair; as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. paraphrased the words of the abolitionist Theodore Parker, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

It is incumbent upon each and every one of us living in this country to extend the kindness and respect to our neighbor that we, in turn, would wish to receive. LGBTQ Americans live and work in every city and county in our nation. They live in communities that are rural, urban, suburban and everything in between. They are a diverse community that spans all races, ethnicities, nations, and creeds, but they all have one thing in common—they were created by God and in his image.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL JOHN A. OKON

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Rear Admiral John A. Okon for his profound leadership while in command of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC) at John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi from 2017 to 2021.

Rear Adm. Okon grew up in Syracuse, New York where he married his wife, Valerie Gessner. Okon first graduated from the State University of New York Maritime College at Fort Schuyler in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and Oceanography. He also earned a bachelor's degree in National Security Studies from the Naval War